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By: **Delegate Hurson**

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2001

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Ethics Law - Lobbyist Registration for Political Committee Activity**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring an entity to register as a regulated lobbyist with the  
4 State Ethics Commission if the entity incurs certain expenses for the purpose of  
5 influencing any legislative or executive action and serves on a political  
6 committee that contributes or transfers a certain amount of money within a  
7 certain election cycle to certain officials, candidates, or political committees; and  
8 generally relating to the registration of regulated lobbyists.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article - State Government  
11 Section 15-701(a)  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
15 Article - State Government  
16 Section 15-707(d)  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
20 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

21 **Article - State Government**

22 15-701.

23 (a) Unless exempted under subsection (b) of this section, an entity shall  
24 register with the Ethics Commission as provided in this subtitle, and shall be a  
25 "regulated lobbyist" for the purposes of this title, if, during a reporting period, the  
26 entity:

27 (1) for the purpose of influencing legislative action:

1 (i) communicates with an official or employee of the Legislative  
2 Branch or Executive Branch in the presence of that official or employee; and

3 (ii) exclusive of the personal travel or subsistence expenses of the  
4 entity or a representative of the entity, incurs expenses of at least \$100 or earns at  
5 least \$500 as compensation;

6 (2) in connection with or for the purpose of influencing executive action,  
7 spends a cumulative value of at least \$100 for meals, beverages, special events, or  
8 gifts on one or more officials or employees of the Executive Branch;

9 (3) is employed to influence executive action on a procurement contract  
10 that exceeds \$100,000;

11 (4) spends at least \$2,000, including postage, for the express purpose of  
12 soliciting others to communicate with an official to influence legislative action or  
13 executive action; [or]

14 (5) spends at least \$500 to provide compensation to one or more entities  
15 required to register under this subsection; OR

16 (6) (I) INCURS EXPENSES, INCLUDING PERSONAL TRAVEL AND  
17 SUBSISTENCE EXPENSES, OF AT LEAST \$500 FOR THE PURPOSE OF INFLUENCING  
18 ANY LEGISLATIVE ACTION OR EXECUTIVE ACTION; AND

19 (II) SERVES ON A POLITICAL COMMITTEE, OTHER THAN A  
20 POLITICAL COMMITTEE FOR A CANDIDATE OR A SLATE OF CANDIDATES, THAT  
21 CONTRIBUTES OR TRANSFERS A CUMULATIVE TOTAL OF AT LEAST \$10,000 WITHIN  
22 THE ELECTION CYCLE DURING WHICH THOSE EXPENSES ARE INCURRED OR THE  
23 PREVIOUS ELECTION CYCLE TO ONE OR MORE:

24 1. OFFICIALS OR CANDIDATES DESCRIBED IN § 15-707(D)(1)  
25 OF THIS SUBTITLE; OR

26 2. POLITICAL COMMITTEES FOR AN OFFICIAL OR  
27 CANDIDATE DESCRIBED IN § 15-707(D)(1) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

28 15-707.

29 (d) (1) A regulated lobbyist who is subject to this section or a person acting  
30 on behalf of the regulated lobbyist may not, for the benefit of the Governor,  
31 Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, or member of the General  
32 Assembly or candidate for election to the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor,  
33 Attorney General, Comptroller, or member of the General Assembly:

34 (i) solicit or transmit a political contribution from any person,  
35 including a political committee;

36 (ii) serve on a fund-raising committee or a political committee; or

1 (iii) act as a treasurer or chairman of a political committee.

2 (2) This section does not prohibit a regulated lobbyist from:

3 (i) making a personal political contribution; or

4 (ii) informing any entity of a position taken by a candidate.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
6 October 1, 2001.